

Undeniable are the phenomenal advances in agriculture, industry, and scientific knowledge, but it is also true that this period saw a rise in superstitious thought, increased victimisation, through scapegoating and genocide. Surprisingly such practices were not only accepted by intellectuals of the time (including the new breed known later to be the founding fathers of the scientific method) but were advocated and proposed by them.

As the first example of this I would like to consider the role of King James I (formerly King James VI of Scotland), who is credited as the progenitor of the Bible, New Testament, which is still the Bible of the Church of England today. Added to this legacy is the fact that it was also this king, son of Mary Queen of Scots, who brought into existence another book which historians agree brought into popular English and Scottish culture the execution of enormous numbers of elderly females across this land. The book perhaps a product of his being raised, of him being taught as a child that his mother Mary, was evil... and women kind in general was also evil, weak and susceptible to seduction from the Devil" (Dr Tracey Borman, The National Archives Podcast Series, 'Secrets: Witches, Sorcerers, Scandal and Seduction in Jacobean England, 02/02/2013, [media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/writer-men-m-witches-sorcerers-seduction-jacobean-england/](http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/writer-men-m-witches-sorcerers-seduction-jacobean-england/))

In this national archives government podcast Dr Borman, a historian, tells from available records that probably close to a million people (95% women) were trialed and a large proportion sentenced to death, by hanging in England and more commonly 'burning' in Scotland. She tells the listener how the vast majority of trial + execution records were destroyed around the middle of the 18th century and